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Video Annotation

This video from Discovery Education provides a greater insight into the Mauryan Empire and its rule under the leader Ashoka. The video mainly focuses on his use of elephants as a military tool, in addition to his superior military strategies. It is valuable to learn this information because it helps to provide a more clear understanding as to why the Mauryan Empire was successful in its many sieges, such as in Kalinga. In Kalinga, Ashoka demonstrated his superior military power by traveling across rough terrain to arrive at Kalinga and overtake the city. However, he was so successful in his campaign that he was horrified by the amount of destruction and death he caused that he renounced all violence and supported Buddhism. Although it at first his adoption of Buddhism might have seemed confusing, the video helped to explain more clearly as to why a militarily superior kingdom would have renounced violence in order to support Buddhism and renounced violence. Through video reenactment and visuals, the video more clearly explains the carnage that resulted from Ashoka’s military campaign, and the peace that resulted from it. Because of this, I found the video to be a valuable addition to our lesson.